

Please silence your phone



OUT

STANDING

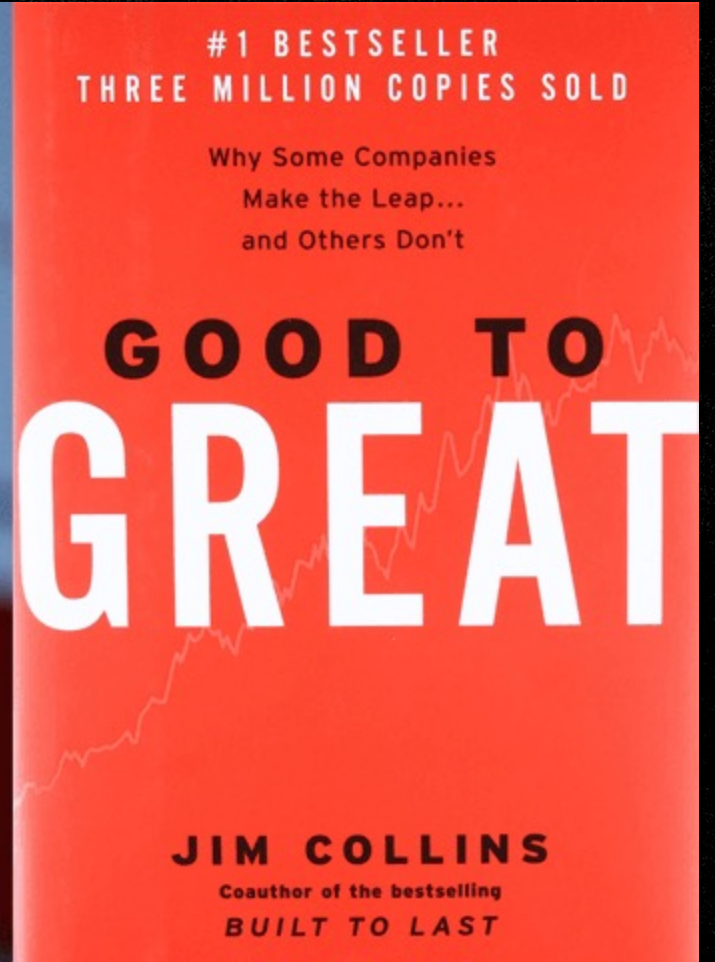
A STUDY OF THESSALONIANS

#1 BESTSELLER
THREE MILLION COPIES SOLD

Why Some Companies
Make the Leap...
and Others Don't

**GOOD TO
GREAT**

JIM COLLINS
Coauthor of the bestselling
BUILT TO LAST



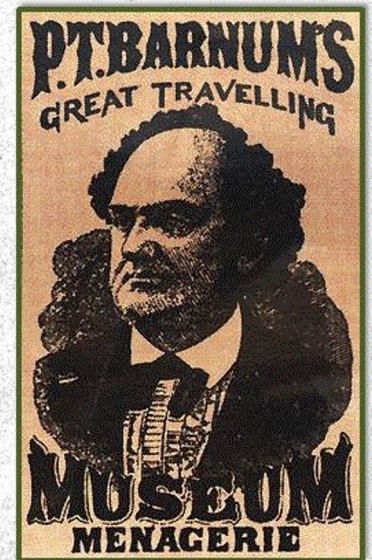


courtesy Chess Masters

***Good to Great* echoes one of the big ideas found in the Thessalonian letters. God expects us to pursue excellence, and if we make good decisions, we'll become outstanding.**



The *Good to Great* flaw = “The Barnum Effect.”
If you make your comments vague enough,
people will always sucker themselves into
thinking your platitudes are universal.



2 Thess. 3
good to great

**v. 16-18 We have peace, authority,
and grace stretching over us.**

**v. 2-3 We are
surrounded
by God's
protection.**

**v. 4-15 We can be outstanding!
We can be humbly teachable,
discern and properly respond to
laziness, offer exemplary self-
sacrificial service, practice a
focused work ethic, balance our
budgets, and persevere.**

**v. 2-3 We are
surrounded
by God's
presence.**

v. 1 We are founded on scripture.





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¹ In addition, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you, ² and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not all have faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

2 Thessalonians 3 CSB

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We fight for the *principles* of the Bible. I don't have time to get caught up in the details.

We don't even go to church anymore.



What have you learned from scripture lately?

This (his latest book) is our church.



2 Thessalonians 3 CSB

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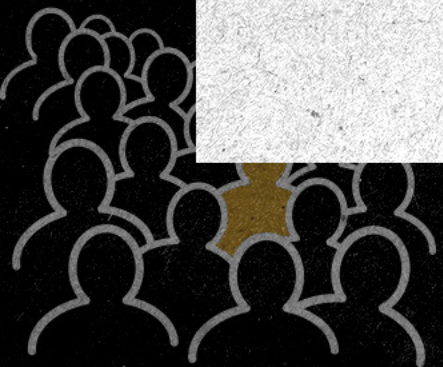
Paul requests prayer for the effectiveness of their message (the Gospel/the word) and protection from those who would prevent them from sharing the Gospel/the word. This was not for His benefit, but so that God's word may be known. Paul's focus is singular—to make the word of the Lord known.

– Martin MacDonald



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courtesy Getty

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²⁰ My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all courage, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1 CSB



2 Thessalonians 3 CSB

² [Pray] that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not all have faith.

³ But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

Philippians 1 CSB

²¹ For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.



Apostle Paul mosaic
1910
(based on Pyotr Basin's 1860 oil)

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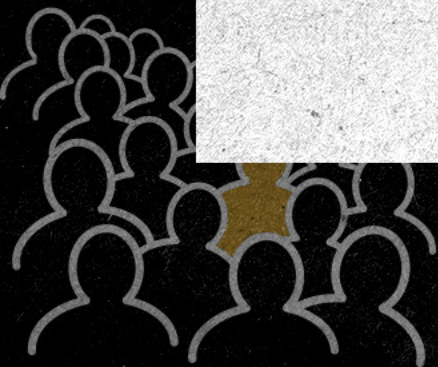
**Rabbi Lord
Jonathan Sacks
in 2010**



courtesy European Parliament

Lord Jonathan Sacks “Reversing the Decay”

We have been spending our moral capital with the same reckless abandon that we have been spending our financial capital. Freud was right. The precondition of civilization is the ability to defer the gratification of instinct. And even Freud, who disliked religion and called it the “obsessional neurosis” of humankind, realized that it was the Judeo-Christian ethic that trained people to control their appetites...but





Destruction Paradox

Carl Plate

1960

courtesy Art Gallery NSW

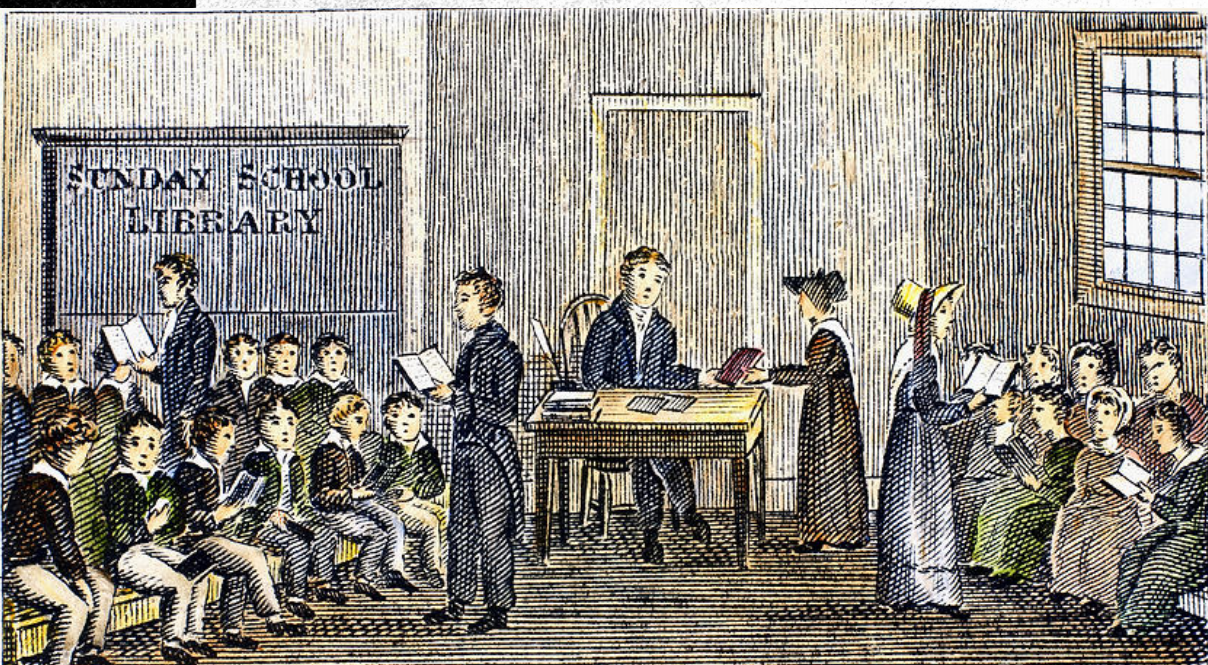
Lord Jonathan Sacks “Reversing the Decay”

Has this happened before, and is there a way back? The answer to both questions is in the affirmative. In the 1820s, in Britain and America, a similar phenomenon occurred. People were moving from villages to cities. Families were disrupted. Young people were separated from their parents and no longer under their control. Alcohol consumption rose dramatically. So did violence. In the 1820s it was unsafe to walk the streets of London because of pickpockets by day and “unruly ruffians” by night.



Lord Jonathan Sacks “Reversing the Decay”

What happened over the next 30 years was a massive shift in public opinion. There was an unprecedented growth in charities, friendly societies, working men’s institutes, temperance groups, church and synagogue associations, Sunday schools, YMCA buildings and moral campaigns of every shape and size, fighting slavery or child labor or inhuman working conditions.



Lord Jonathan Sacks “Reversing the Decay”

The common factor was their focus on the building of moral character, self-discipline, willpower and personal responsibility. It worked. Within a single generation, crime rates came down and social order was restored. What was achieved was nothing less than the re-moralization of society. – Lord Jonathan Sacks, “Reversing the Decay” in The Times Literary Supplement



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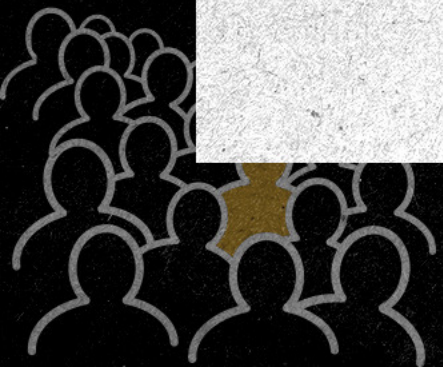
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⁴ We have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will continue to do what we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to God's love and Christ's endurance. ⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister who is idle and does not live according to the tradition received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you should imitate us: We were not idle among you;

2 Thessalonians 3 CSB



⁸ we did not eat anyone's food free of charge; instead, we labored and toiled, working night and day, so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ It is not that we don't have the right to support, but we did it to make ourselves an example to you so that you would imitate us. ¹⁰ In fact, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: "If anyone isn't willing to work, he should not eat." ¹¹ For we hear that there are some among you who are idle. They are not busy but busybodies.

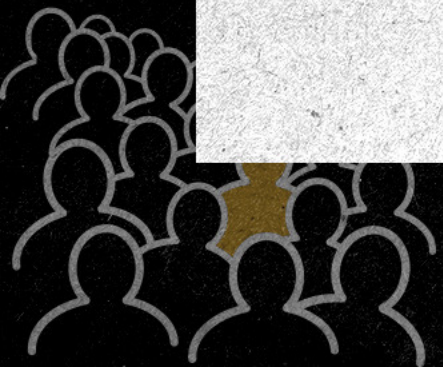
2 Thessalonians 3 CSB



¹² Now we command and exhort such people by the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and provide for themselves.

¹³ But as for you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary in doing good. ¹⁴ If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take note of that person; don't associate with him, so that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet don't consider him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

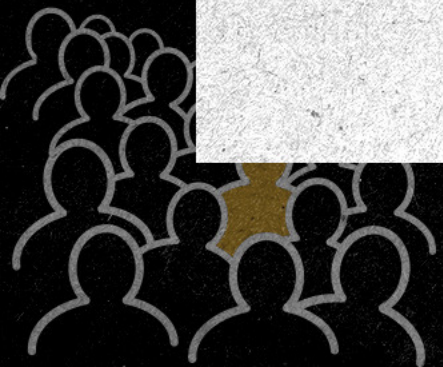
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12 Now we command and exhort such people by the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and provide for themselves.

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2 Thessalonians 3 CSB



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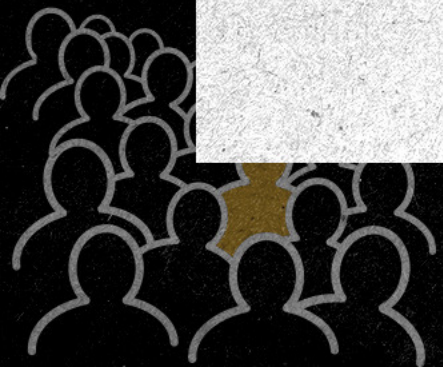


courtesy Janna Braudrick



³ But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. ⁴ We have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will continue to do what we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to God's love and Christ's endurance.

2 Thessalonians 3 CSB



E-mail



courtesy shutterstock

The tone seemed condescending and possibly snarky. However, the letter contained at least one, and maybe two, very good points; reminders I needed to hear. Thankfully, 2 Thess 3 was ringing in my heart, and I chose to be teachable. I ignored the tone & replied by humbly thanking the writer for the good reminder.



**Thanks for your gracious handling of my inquiry. I would probably have been pretty defensive, knowing me.
– Wayne's new friend**



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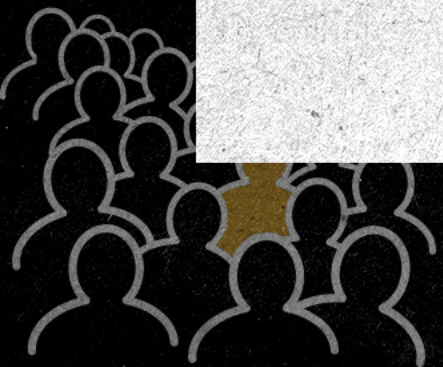
courtesy Gill Hogan



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courtesy City of OKC



courtesy apost



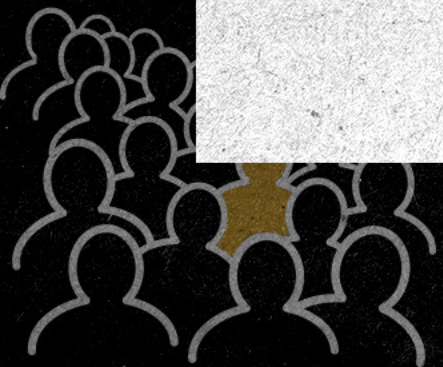
**People – especially blessed people – find it easy to develop an entitled attitude. I will not let that happen in my home.
– Dr. Ron S. Barlow**



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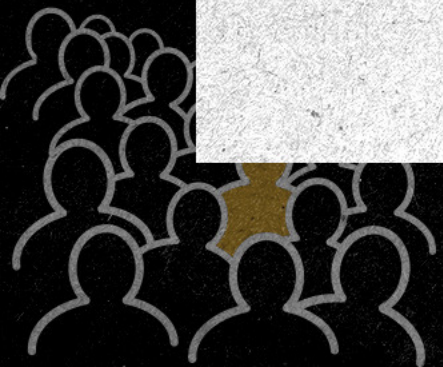
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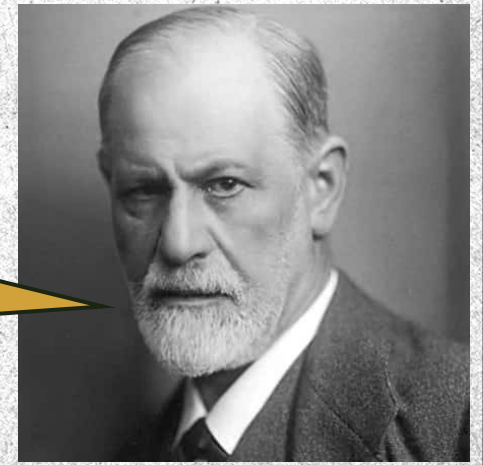
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Lord Jonathan Sacks “Reversing the Decay”

Freud was right. The precondition of civilization is the ability to defer the gratification of instinct. And even Freud, who disliked religion and called it the “obsessional neurosis” of humankind, realized that it was the Judeo-Christian ethic that trained people to control their appetites...

What? I was
actually correct
about something?



⁷ For you yourselves know how you should imitate us: We were not idle among you; ⁸ we did not eat anyone's food free of charge; instead, we labored and toiled, working night and day, so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ It is not that we don't have the right to support, but we did it to make ourselves an example to you so that you would imitate us.

2 Thessalonians 3 CSB

The forum/agora where Paul worked in Thessalonica



MINE MINE MINE

MINE MINE MINE MINE MINE

MINE MINE MINE MINE MINE

MINE MINE MINE MINE MINE MINE MINE MINE MINE



Gary Varvel
THE INDUSTRY'S #1
©2011 CREATORS.COM
garyvarvel.com

volunteer members



self-sacrificial servants



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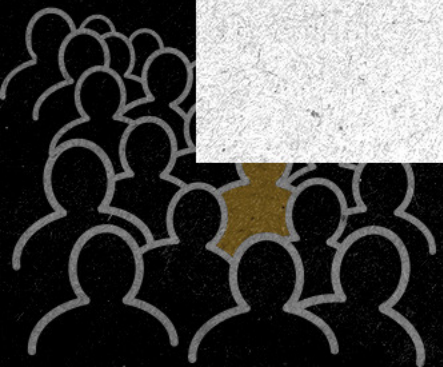
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Our lack of delayed gratification is the problem. That's where we miss the opportunity to show exemplary self-sacrifice the way Paul did.

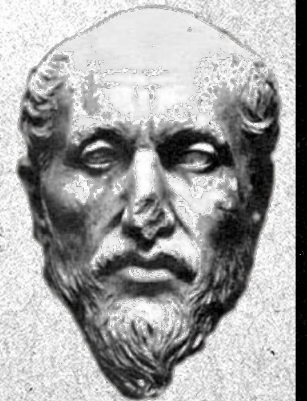


¹⁰ In fact, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: “If anyone isn’t willing to work, he should not eat.” ¹¹ For we hear that there are some among you who are idle. They are not busy but busybodies. ¹² Now we command and exhort such people by the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and provide for themselves.

2 Thessalonians 3 CSB



He is a vulgar man, who spends his days meddling, running around in public, in theaters, tribunals, councils, and assemblies, meetings and consultations of all sorts; he prattles on without moderation, fruitlessly, to no end; he confuses and stirs up everything, mingling truth with falsehood, the spoken with the unspoken, the private with the public, the sacred with the profane, the serious with the ridiculous, not having learned to remain quiet, which is the ideal when the situation calls for it; [instead] he pricks up his ears in an excess of bustling busyness. – Philo of Alexandria, *On The Life of Abraham*



2 Thessalonians 3 CSB

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Greek: ἡσυχίας hesychias = quiet focus; tranquility that comes from within





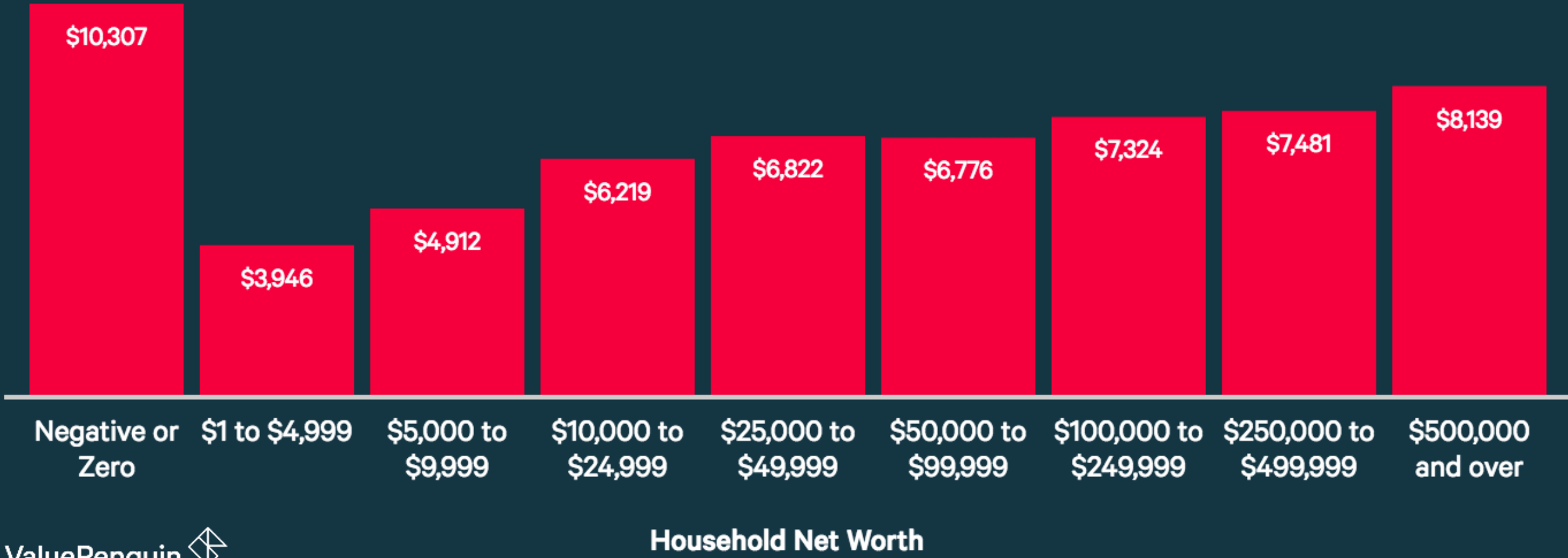
courtesy Seaton

**¹² Now such people we
command and urge in the
Lord Jesus Christ to work
quietly and so provide their
own food to eat.**

2 Thessalonians 3 NET



Average Credit Card Debt In America



**¹² Now such people we
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2 Thessalonians 3 NET



MORE THAN ONE MILLION COPIES SOLD!



OF AMERICA

THE MILLIONAIRE THE SURPRISING SECRETS OF AMERICA'S WEALTHY NEXT DOOR

Thomas J. Stanley, Ph.D.
William D. Danko, Ph.D.

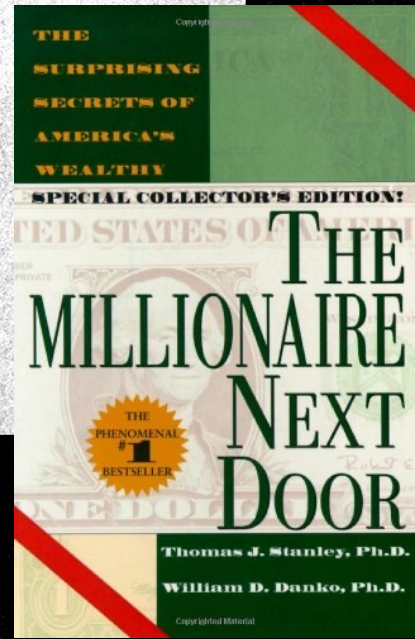
**MORE THAN ONE YEAR ON THE
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER LIST!**



courtesy Simon & Schuster

Most of the millionaire households they profiled did not have the extravagant lifestyles that most people would assume. This finding is backed up by surveys indicating how little these millionaire households have spent on such things as cars, watches, suits, and other luxury products/services. Most importantly, the book gives a list of reasons for why these people managed to accumulate so much wealth (the top one being that “They live *below* their means”).

– Soundview Executive Book Summaries



Christ-followers change the world by developing: teachability; discernment re: laziness; exemplary self-sacrifice; focused work ethic; balanced budgets; and perseverance.

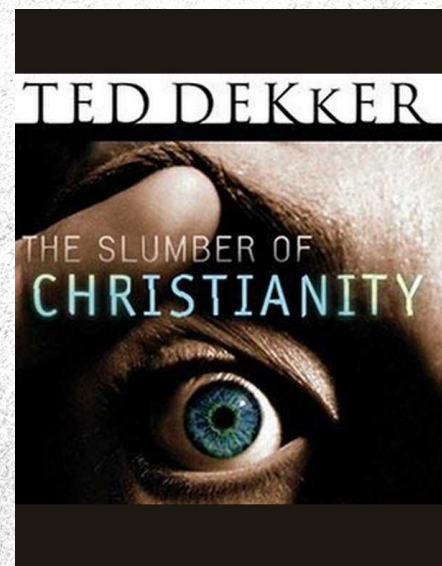
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2 Thessalonians 3 CSB



GOOD —

GREAT —



We are faced with a pervasive lethargy among...Christians. It is [a] slumber of Christianity. – Ted Dekker, *The Slumber of Christianity*





Hosea
Raphael
1510



Because Hosea is focused on heaven, he perseveres on earth. Because he knows that God is going to make all things right forever, he wants to live in that light here & now.

Hosea
Raphael
1510



³ Let's strive to know the LORD.

His appearance is as sure as the dawn.

He will come to us like the rain,

like the spring showers that water the land.

Hosea 6 CSB



¹⁶ May the Lord of peace himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with all of you. ¹⁷ I, Paul, am writing this greeting with my own hand, which is an authenticating mark in every letter; this is how I write. ¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

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In Paul's Jewish heritage, peace was a broad concept encompassing both the absence of conflict and the presence of well-being. That Paul prayed for a peace granted by the Lord of peace makes clear that he was thinking of a spiritual reality that goes beyond human peace, one that can exist even in the midst of temporal turmoil (cf. Phil 4:6–9). It arises from the knowledge that all that is rests in the hands of the Father, and so it is possessed only by those who have learned to trust their Lord and God.



Clearly Paul was convinced that believers could experience the peace of God in any and all situations. For any who were cognizant of Paul's turbulent past and ongoing trials, such a statement from the apostle was not just a theological assertion but a testimony from one who had tested its truth and found his trust well placed. – D.M. Martin, *1 and 2 Thessalonians*



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courtesy Dreamstime



Pastor, I can't read this at all. Is this your handwriting?



courtesy Dreamstime

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God's Riches At Christ's Expense



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